IN THE CLAIMS:

This Amendment is formatted in accordance with the revised format permitted at 1267 Official Gazette, entitled "Amendments In Revised Format Now Permitted".

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1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) An ink absorbent contained in a housing of an ink tank for storing ink in the interior thereof and provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the outside, and an atmospheric communication port for communication with the air outside, said supply port being adapted to receive an ink supply portion of an ink jet head into an inside of said housing,

wherein said ink absorbent is arranged by a fibrous material having an outer surface thereof thermally processed into an outer shape configured for containment in the interior of said ink tank, and

wherein a side face of said ink absorbent facing said supply port of said ink tank is a non-thermally processed cut face.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Amended) An ink absorbent contained in a housing of an ink for storing ink in the interior thereof and provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the outside, and an atmospheric communication port for communication with the air outside, said supply port being adapted to receive an ink supply portion of an ink jet head into an inside of said housing, said ink absorbent being formed by fiber material having a surface formed at least by thermoforming, wherein

the face of said ink absorbent facing the plane having the largest area on the inner face of said ink tank is a cut face thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) An ink absorbent according to Claim 5, wherein said ink tank comprises a negative pressure generating member installation ~~changer~~ chamber; a liquid storage chamber communicated with said negative pressure generating member installation chamber through a communication portion to store ink to be supplied to said negative pressure generating member installation chamber substantially closed with the exception of said communication portion; and a partition wall member having said communication portion, partitioning said negative pressure generating member installation chamber and said liquid storage chamber.

7. (Original) An ink absorbent according to Claim 6, wherein the face of said ink absorbent facing said partition wall member is the cut face thereof.

8. (Previously Amended) An ink absorbent contained in a housing of an ink tank for storing ink in the interior thereof and provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the outside, and an atmospheric communication port for communication with the air outside, said ink absorbent being formed by fiber material having a surface formed at least by thermoforming, wherein

two faces of said ink absorbent opposite to each other are cut faces parallel to each other in fiber direction.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) An ink tank ~~containing~~ comprising an ink absorbent according to any one of Claims 2, 5 or 8, in the interior thereof.

11. to 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Added) An ink tank according to Claim 10, wherein said ink tank comprises:

a negative pressure generating member installation chamber in which said ink absorbent is contained;

a liquid storage chamber communicated with said negative pressure generating member installation chamber through a communication passage to store ink to

be supplied to said negative pressure generating member installation chamber substantially closed with the exception of said communication passage; and

a partition wall member having said communication passage, partitioning said negative pressure generating member installation chamber and said liquid storage chamber.

20. (Previously Added) An ink absorbent according to Claim 19, wherein the face of said ink absorbent facing said partition wall member is a cut face thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) An ink tank comprising a supply port for leading out ink to the outside, an atmospheric communication port for communication with the air outside, a negative pressure generating member installation chamber in which an ink absorbent is contained, a liquid storage chamber communicated with said negative pressure generating member installation chamber through a communication passage to store ink to be supplied to said negative pressure generating member installation chamber, said liquid storage chamber having substantially closed with the exception of said communication passage, and a partition wall member defining said communication passage and partitioning said negative pressure generating member installation chamber and said liquid storage chamber, said supply port being adapted to receive an ink supply portion of an ink jet head into an inside of said negative pressure generating member installation chamber,

wherein said ink absorbent is arranged by a fibrous material, wherein an outer surface thereof is thermally processed into an outer shape configured for containment

in the interior of said ink tank, and wherein said ink absorbent is contained in a manner that a side face of said ink absorbent corresponding to said supply port of said ink tank is a non-thermally processed cut face.

22. (Previously Added) An ink absorbent according to Claim 8, wherein said supply port is adapted to receive an ink supply portion of an ink jet head into an inside of said housing.

23. (Previously Added) An ink absorbent according to Claim 2, wherein said non-thermally processed face is arranged by cutting a thermally processed face and has a hardness softer than the thermally processed face.

24. (Previously Added) An ink absorbent according to Claim 21, wherein said non-thermally processed face is arranged by cutting a thermally processed face and has a hardness softer than the thermally processed face.